

When from counting the House on a division it appears that there is not a quorum, the matter continues exactly in the state in which it was before the division, and must be resumed at that point on any future day. *2 Hats., 126.*

§ 510. Business
suspended by the
failure of a quorum.

Although under the rules first adopted in the 95th Congress it is not in order to make or entertain a point of no quorum unless the question has been put on the pending motion or proposition, if a quorum in fact does not respond on a call of the House or on a vote, even the most highly privileged business must terminate (IV, 2934; VI, 662) and even debate must stop until a quorum is established (see IV, 2935–2949). No motion is entertained in the absence of a quorum other than a motion relating to the call of the House or to adjourn (IV, 2950; VI, 680). Even in the closing hours of a Congress business has been stopped by the failure of a quorum (V, 6309; Oct. 18, 1972, p. 37199).

1606, May 1, on a question whether a Member having said yea may afterwards sit and change his opinion, a precedent was remembered by the Speaker, of Mr. Morris, attorney of the wards, in *39 Eliz.*, who in like case changed his opinion. *Mem. in Hakew., 27.*

§ 511. Change of a
vote.

The House is governed in this respect by the practice under clause 2 of rule XX.

SEC. XLII—TITLES

After the bill has passed, and not before, the title may be amended, and is to be fixed by a question; and the bill is then sent to the other House.

§ 512. Amendments to
the title of a bill.

The House by clause 6 of rule XVI embodies this principle with an additional provision as to debate.

SEC. XLIII—RECONSIDERATION

1798, Jan. A bill on its second reading being
§ 513. Early Senate
practice as to
reconsideration. amended, and on the question
 whether it shall be read a third
 time negatived, was restored by a
 decision to reconsider that question. Here the
 votes of negative and reconsideration, like posi-
 tive and negative quantities in equation, destroy
 one another, and are as if they were expunged
 from the journals. Consequently the bill is open
 for amendment, just so far as it was the moment
 preceding the question for the third reading;
 that is to say, all parts of the bill are open for
 amendment except those on which votes have
 been already taken in its present stage. So, also,
 it may be recommitted.

The rule permitting a reconsideration of a
 question affixing it to no limitation of time or
 circumstance, it may be asked whether there is
 no limitation? If, after the vote, the paper on
 which it is passed has been parted with, there
 can be no reconsideration, as if a vote has been
 for the passage of a bill and the bill has been
 sent to the other House. But where the paper re-
 mains, as on a bill rejected, when or under what
 circumstances does it cease to be susceptible of
 reconsideration? This remains to be settled, un-
 less a sense that the right of reconsideration is
 a right to waste the time of the House in re-
 peated agitations of the same question, so that
 it shall never know when a question is done